

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

~~Claim 1.~~ (Currently amended) [[:]] ~~Locking~~ A locking ring for axially fixing a shaft part (3) in a ring part (1), where the shaft part (3) ~~has an~~ having a peripheral groove (41) and the ring part (1) ~~has~~ having an inner groove (21), in which the locking ring, (5) ~~comprising~~ which has an opening in ~~the~~ a circumferential direction, engages in ~~the~~ a fixed state, ~~characterized in that~~ the locking ring (5) ~~has~~ comprising first partial areas (56, 57, 51, 53), ~~that~~ configured to engage in the inner groove (21) ~~after the~~ upon resiliently pressing together the locking ring (5) [[,]] so that ~~so that it can be placed~~ the locking ring is placeable in the inner ~~opening~~ (21) groove of the ring part (1) [[,]] and pushing the locking ring (5) into the area ~~of the~~ inner groove (21) and releasing and expanding the locking ring (5), ~~and also has~~ second partial areas (52, 54, 55) ~~that~~ configured to project from the inner groove (21) once the locking ring (5) has been placed ~~in the inner groove (21)~~ therein and ~~which are to~~ resiliently pushed push outward in a ~~phase~~ (7) section of the shaft part (3) which has been pushed into ~~the~~ an inner opening (2) of the ring part so that the ~~safety~~ locking

ring (5) can slide on the a periphery of the shaft part (3) until ~~it~~ the locking ring reaches the ~~area of the~~ peripheral groove (41) and the second partial areas (52, 54, 55) resiliently snap ~~onto~~ into said peripheral groove,

the locking ring being configured as a polygon that includes side parts and corner areas, the first partial areas including the corner areas and opposed free end areas that adjoin the locking ring opening, and the second partial areas including middle areas of the side parts of the polygon.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) [[:]] ~~Locking~~ The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ [[:]] wherein the first and the second partial areas are each distributed evenly over at least one of the periphery of the inner groove (21) ~~and/or~~ and the peripheral groove (41).

Claim 3. (Currently amended) [[:]] ~~Locking~~ The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, it has the shape of~~ wherein the polygon is a triangle formed from configured as a base part (52) and two of the side parts (54, 55) connected to the ~~former~~ base part, where the first partial areas are ~~formed by~~ including two of the corner areas (51, 53) between the base part and the side parts and the free end areas (56, 57) of the side parts of the triangle, and the second partial areas are

~~formed by including~~ the middle areas of the base part ~~(52)~~ and the side parts ~~(54, 55)~~.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) [[:]] ~~Looking~~ The locking ring pursuant to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ [[,]] wherein the side parts ~~(54, 55)~~ and the base part ~~(52)~~ form triangle is an equilateral triangle.

Claim 5-6. (Canceled) [[:]]

Claim 7. (Currently amended) [[:]] ~~Looking~~ The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ [[,]] wherein the corner areas ~~(51, 53)~~ are rounded off in shape.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) [[:]] ~~Looking~~ The locking ring pursuant to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ [[,]] wherein the rounding of the corner areas ~~(51, 53)~~ is adjusted to the a radius of the a base ~~(22)~~ of the inner groove ~~(21)~~.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) [[:]] ~~Looking~~ The locking ring pursuant to claim 1, ~~characterized in that, it has a~~ wherein a cross section of the locking ring is circular, oval, rectangular, quadratic, or polygonal ~~design in its material cross section~~ shape.

10. (New) A locking ring for axially securing an inserted shaft having a peripheral groove to an annular ring having an inner groove, the locking ring comprising:

a plurality of first partial areas configured to engage the inner groove of the annular ring, the locking ring being resiliently deformable such that upon being resiliently pressed together, pushed into the inner groove, and released so as to expand, the locking ring is placeable in the inner groove; and

a plurality of second partial areas configured to project from the inner groove once the locking ring has been placed therein, to resiliently extend toward the inserted shaft such that the locking ring is slideable on a periphery of the shaft until the locking ring is located at the peripheral groove, and to resiliently snap into the peripheral groove to secure the shaft to the annular ring,

the locking ring being configured as a polygon that includes side parts, corner areas, and opposed ends at an opening therein, the first partial areas including the corner areas and the opposed ends, and the second partial areas including middle areas of the side parts.

11. (New) The locking ring according to claim 10, wherein the polygon is a triangle.